



Joint SubCommittee On Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget (PEPB)

59TH Montana Legislature

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PROPOSED DECISION PACKAGE LANGUAGE FOR 2009 BIENNIUM BUDGET

August 18, 2006

Both the Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee (PEPB) and the Education and Local Government Interim Committee (ELG) approved the following three Decision Packages (DP's), during their August 2006 meetings.

As such, these DP's are being sent forward to the executive budget office with the statement that this interim committee believes that these merit consideration for inclusion in the 2009 biennium executive budget. This is a unique process for the following reasons:

1. A committee of the legislature is taking a pro-active role in the 2009 biennium budget by sending forth recommendations to the executive in advance of the executive budget; and
2. That committee is recommending that clear accountability measures and outcome goals be built into these DP's through a concept that will be discussed by the interim Legislative Finance Committee, that mechanism being a companion bill that would accompany House Bill 2 in order to operationalize the accountability language and process as part of the state budget.

The "companion bill to HB2" concept has emerged as legislative legal staff have expressed concern with placing these substantive matters into HB2 language.

Note that accountability measures and outcome goals built into these DP's appear in ***bold/italicized*** font.

Initiative DP #5: Improve Indian Education for All (restricted, OTO)

The Education and Local Government Interim Committee (ELG) recommends a restricted, one-time only appropriation of \$500,000 general fund to support improvements to the Indian Education For All program in the university educational units of the MUS. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education shall provide a report, presented to the interim PEPB subcommittee that demonstrates the following:

- ***that the Tribal Advisory Board on Indian Education for All has been created and that the Board has drafted a workplan***
- ***that the Indian Education for All website for the Montana University System has been put up and is operational***
- ***that the faculty development program for Indian Education for All has been created and implemented***
- ***that the request for proposal (RFP) process for Indian Education for All "public domain" coursework is completed and ready to be released***

Initiative DP #6-B: Healthcare Worker Education (restricted, biennial, OTO)

- The ELG recommends a restricted, biennial, one-time-only general fund appropriation of \$3 million to support the Healthcare Worker Education program in order to support funding individual initiatives to expand healthcare training programs.

The university system is invited to request state funding to establish this as an ongoing, sustainable appropriation in the subsequent 2011 biennium budget, contingent upon a report to the PEPB by August 2008 that demonstrates progress toward the following accountability measures (see companion bill to HB 2, which is HB ____):

- *Programs for high demand healthcare occupations in rural and underserved areas of the state have been significantly expanded, with particular emphasis on:*
 - *Programs that place medical, dental, pharmacy, and advanced practice nursing students in rural and underserved communities;*
 - *Programs that increase the number of nursing graduates who are working in rural and underserved communities; and*
 - *Expansion or start up of two- and four-year allied health programs identified as being in high demand by employers (imaging, laboratory, and therapeutic, for example).*
- *Programs that increase the availability of clinical education opportunities have significantly expanded enrollment, with emphasis on:*
 - *Increased faculty for clinical education in community sites;*
 - *Increased clinical placements in rural and underserved communities; and*
 - *Enhanced quality of clinical education through simulation and other non-traditional strategies.*
- *Health professions education for rural and underserved residents has been significantly expanded through flexible educational options including distance education, accelerated programs, and multi-campus collaborative programs.*
- *The university system is on track to provide the healthcare workers needed in Montana over the next decade, consistent with the long-term goals of the statewide plan.*

Initiative DP #7: One-Time-Only Investments in Infrastructure and Program Development (restricted, biennial, OTO)

The ELG recommends a restricted, biennial, one-time-only general fund appropriation of \$8 million general fund to support the investments in infrastructure and program development as follows:

- \$5 million one-time-only for MUS Equipment and Technology
- \$1.5 million one-time-only for deferred maintenance for Montana's three community colleges
- \$1.5 million one-time-only to expand critical programs in workforce training and program development in high-demand fields

The university system is requested to submit a report to the PEPB by August 2008 that demonstrates the impact of this funding and its progress toward the accountability measure of improving institutional and system efficiency and effectiveness.